

MINUTES

**Eugene City Council
Harris Hall, 125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene, Oregon 97401**

**February 11, 2013
5:30 p.m.**

Councilors Present: George Brown, Betty Taylor, Alan Zelenka, George Poling, Mike Clark, Greg Evans, Claire Syrett, Chris Pryor.

Her Honor, Mayor Piercy called the February 11, 2013, work session of the Eugene City Council to order. Mayor Piercy changed the order of the agenda items, moving the local option levy for city services to the first item.

A. WORK SESSION: Local Option Levy for City Services

City Manager, Jon Ruiz gave a PowerPoint presentation sharing options to address the budget gap. The three options he addressed are:

- \$6 million levy
- \$3 million levy
- Option for City fee

City budget staff will prepare two budgets: one with funding; one without. The budget without funding would require approximately \$5 million in service cuts to operate a balanced budget.

Comments, concerns and issues shared by the Mayor and council:

- Some councilors favored a fee.
- Some councilors supported a full levy so there can be a vote.
- Support was expressed for preserving human services and public safety funding.
- There is concern about consequences if the fee or levy gets voted down.
- Financial information about Laurelwood Golf Course was requested.
- The fee may be more stable, but also more challenging to sell to voters.
- Some expressed an interest in looking at all parks, not just Laurelwood, noting that a complete analysis would be a useful assessment tool.

The City Attorney read the elements of a proposed ordinance prepared in anticipation of this item being placed on the ballot.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Brown, seconded by Councilor Syrett, moved to direct the City Manager to bring back for final approval a city service fee ballot measure that could be used to close the budget gap and fund fire and police service, homeless and basic human services, and core quality of life services, such as libraries and swimming pools. **PASSED:** 5:3, Councilors Poling, Clark, and Taylor opposed

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Brown, seconded by Councilor Syrett, moved to direct the City Manager to include an option for a partial exemption schedules for Eugene 4j and Bethel School Districts. A friendly amendment clarifying that school districts would fall into the “residential” definition of the ordinance was accepted. **PASSED:** 7:1, Councilor Poling opposed.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Zelenka, seconded by Councilor Brown, moved to change Section 2.2015(3) and increase the non-residential fee to \$30. **PASSED:** 5:3, Councilors Poling, Evans and Clark opposed.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Poling, seconded by Councilor Pryor, moved to add another category to include non-profit organizations that deal with social services and qualify for 502(c)(3). **FAILED:** 2:6, Councilors Poling and Pryor in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Mortensen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michelle Mortensen
Deputy City Recorder